

PATENT

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,913,877 to Kroll et al.

In the Office Action, claims 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 12-16, 18, and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the Office Action, claims 20 and 21 are allowed over the prior art of record.

In response thereto, claims 1, 2, and 11 have been cancelled and claims 3, 6, and 12 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 3-10, 12-16, and 18-21 are now pending. Following is a discussion of the patentability of each of the pending claims.

Independent Claim 3

In the Office Action, claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 4-10

Claims 4-10 depend from claim 3 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 12

In the Office Action, claim 12 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 11. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

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Dependent Claims 13-16, 18, and 19

Claims 13-16, 18, and 19 depend from claim 12 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 20 and Dependent Claim 21

Claims 20 and 21 are allowed over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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